



*Michigan*

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS



Volume 03 Issue 3

June 16, 2003



## ***Comments from Capt. John Ort, Deputy State Director of Emergency Management***

My thanks to all of you who took the time to attend the state's Homeland Security Conference last month. After hearing the quality of the information presented by the speakers and talking with many of you during the event, I know that we are on track to building the necessary partnerships and information that is needed to make Homeland Security a success in Michigan.

I believe that the conference strengthened our commitment to ensure that the primary goal of our efforts in Michigan is to make sure our communities are safe – safe from all-hazards, including terrorism. By witnessing the gathering of such a diverse audience of first responders, elected officials, and private sector partners, I am confident that local leaders will know what to do in case of an emergency.

Conferences such as this provide us the basic tools for setting our course through this complex issue. It provides a framework for action, issues to think about, examples of local approaches, and contacts for specific information.

As we move forward together, I encourage your participation in upcoming opportunities to share and learn what we can do to protect our communities. I appreciate your ideas on how we can best meet the needs of first responders, elected officials, private partners and the citizens that we are tasked to protect. Thank you for your support and hard work.

### **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLINT-BEECHER TORNADO**

On June 8, 1953, the deadliest tornado in Michigan history struck the northern Flint Community of Beecher – killing 116 and injuring 844. Anniversary events held on Sunday, June 8, 2003, included a wreath laying ceremony at the Beecher Memorial, commemoration ceremony with historical presentations and a Survivor Reunion.

Taking part in the event was Mr. Edward Buikema, Regional Director of FEMA in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Buikema, retired Captain from the Michigan State Police, was commander of the Emergency Management Division until his retirement and appointment to FEMA in 2001.

### **TORNADOES STRIKE ON ANNIVERSARY**

Ironically, at least three minor tornadoes struck southern Michigan on the Flint-Beecher tornado anniversary date. These tornadoes, however, caused no injuries and no deaths. One tornado, which touched down near the Flint suburb of Grand Blanc, registered as a strong F1 on the Fujita scale according to the National Weather Service. The

other two confirmed tornadoes – one near Fowlerville in Livingston County and the other in Lapeer in Lapeer County – were both measured as F0 in intensity.

### **BEECHER TWISTER HELPED INAUGURATE MENNONITE DISASTER RELIEF GROUP**

Following the Beecher tornado, Oren Detweiler mobilized a small group of fellow Mennonites to assist the area in rebuilding. The Beecher tornado became a major factor in the growth of the Mennonite Disaster Services (MDS) and was instrumental in the organizing of MDS as it is today.

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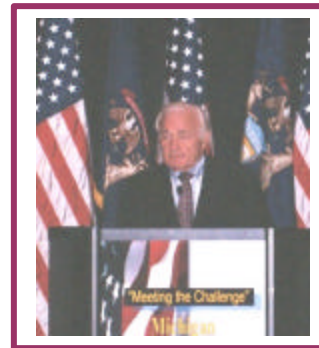
## 2004 MICHIGAN HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Capt. John Ort, welcomes conference attendees

Day two consisted of workshops dividing attendees into discipline areas of interest including Medical, Response, Intelligence & Warnings and Critical Infrastructure Protection.

The closing day hosted two national speakers, Admiral Stansfield Turner, USN (ret.) and Richard Sheirer, former New York City Commissioner of Emergency Management. Mr. Sheirer challenged the audience to review their local jurisdictions for vulnerabilities, and offered many insightful avenues for planning, preparing, preventing and responding to a potential attack. Our efforts and purpose were brought to the stage as the conference hosted the St. Mary's 2nd Grade class and High School Choir. Critical evaluations were submitted offering many great suggestions to improve and enhance the training through this conference in future years. The HMTTC staff would like to thank all that participated, attended and exhibited as they support the needs of our planners, responders and citizens.



Admiral Stansfield Turner, USN (ret.) addresses conference attendees regarding Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Richard Sheirer, former New York City Commissioner of Emergency Management addresses conference attendees. His presentation was entitled, "Plan, Prepare and Practice."



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### E TEAM INSTALLATION COMPLETE

The E-Team Information Management System software has been installed in the State Emergency Operations Center. During the pilot phase of the project, the division will evaluate the use of the software in the SEOC for operations and its interface with state agencies. The interface with the SEOC's GIS will also be evaluated. The goal is to improve SEOC operations and message/data flow.

The division is exploring the expansion of E-Team to a statewide level through an enterprise project. There are various options in the development and delivery of this system to state agencies and local emergency management programs. The time line for the enterprise phase has not yet been determined. A number of local communities have expressed interest in purchasing the E-Team software and installing it in their jurisdictions or regions. The EMD and its contractor, SAIC, are working with those jurisdictions. E-Team could be installed at the local level and integrated into the statewide system in the future. Questions can be directed to Dan Sibb at 517-333-5021 or [SibbD@michigan.gov](mailto:SibbD@michigan.gov).

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OUR MAILING LIST?

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for the "Michigan Emergency Management News," you may contact Dana Wolverton at 517-333-5032 or [wolvertd@michigan.gov](mailto:wolvertd@michigan.gov). The Michigan Emergency Management News is published monthly and is distributed to all local and state emergency management coordinators.

# LEPC News

## ATTENTION LEPCS!

SARA TITLE III Plans (Section 302 Plans), submitted under the Hazardous Material Emergency Planning Grant (HMEP) must be submitted to the appropriate Michigan State Police District Coordinator by July 1, 2003. **Plans submitted after the July 1 deadline will not be eligible for HMEP Grant funding under the HMEP 2002-03 Grant.** If you need assistance please contact Ms. Bonnie Fighter at 517-336-2042 or [fighterb@michigan.gov](mailto:fighterb@michigan.gov).

All Section 302 Plans must have an ID number assigned by the Michigan SARA Title III Program in the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). If you have a plan that needs an ID number, contact the Michigan SARA Title III Program at 517-373-8481 or [deq-ead-sara@michigan.gov](mailto:deq-ead-sara@michigan.gov). The list of facilities subject to section 302 ("302 List") is maintained by the Michigan SARA Title III Program and will be updated with all information received in their office by the end of May 2003. If there are additional changes that need to be made to the 302 List, you need to assure that the

Michigan SARA Title III Program has the required forms by June 25<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

## GUIDELINES FOR ANALYZING AND MANAGING THE SECURITY VULNERABILITIES OF FIXED CHEMICAL SITES

The SERC has received copies of the Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) publication entitled, "Guidelines for Analyzing and Managing the Security Vulnerabilities of Fixed Chemical Sites." This publication provides a process for identifying and analyzing a company's vulnerability to security risks. This publication is useful to larger, more active LEPCs and provides guidance if an LEPC or first response agency wishes to review or discuss a facility's security actions and/or security vulnerability assessment. If you would like a copy, please contact Ms. Bonnie Fighter at 517-336-2042 or [fighterb@michigan.gov](mailto:fighterb@michigan.gov).

## UP FLOODING UPDATE

The cleanup process continues for areas ravaged by the dam failures and flooding of mid-May in Marquette, Baraga, Gogebic, and Ontonagon Counties in the Upper Peninsula. Economic impacts and costs related to this incident continue to grow, as the Presque Isle Power Plant remains dormant. Economic losses related to the flooding and subsequent closing of the power plant and nearby iron ore mines have been estimated at more than \$80 million according to the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at Northern Michigan University.

The Emergency Management Division sent a letter to President Bush (through FEMA) on June 4, formally requesting a Major Disaster Declaration for the four affected Upper Peninsula counties. The FEMA Region V Director will conduct his analysis of the letter before forwarding it on to FEMA Headquarters in Washington, DC for further review and analysis. The FEMA Director will then present the letter with his recommendations to the President for final action on the request.

President Bush has three options when he receives the Governor's request. He can declare a Major Disaster and offer the full range of available federal disaster relief assistance to meet the needs of the affected jurisdictions. He can also declare an Emergency and offer targeted/specialized assistance from federal agencies to meet a specific need that federal agencies are uniquely able to provide. Finally, he can deny the request outright if he does not feel

there is sufficient damage to warrant a declaration. In those cases, limited disaster assistance may still be obtained from specific federal agencies. Examples include Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest disaster loans, flood protection assistance from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), and repairs to Federal Aid System roads and bridges under the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) emergency relief program.

## FALL 2003 – SUMMIT

**Mark your Calendars!** The Hazardous Materials Training Center, in conjunction with MEMA, MAHMR, and the Training & Exercise Section of the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management Division, is planning the annual Hazmat/Emergency Management conference. The 2003 Summit will be hosted at the Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, Michigan with training being held from **October 5 through October 9, 2003**. The first two days will focus primarily on hands-on training to meet the annual hazmat refresher requirements. The final three days will host nationally known speakers such as Capt. Al Hanes, retired United Airlines Pilot, who will reinforce the needs for communication and cooperation between disciplines. Additionally, many great workshop options will be available for learning opportunities such as Grant, Public Health/Emergency Management Interface, Family Preparedness, and an LEPC Practical Workshop in which locals can accomplish goals in the plan writing needs for their communities.

## Upcoming Events

### **Fire Service Expo**

**June 18-22, 2003**

**Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids**

Refer to [www.mi-fire-expo.org](http://www.mi-fire-expo.org) for more information.

### **Michigan Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Commission (SERC)**

**July 8, 2003**

**Emergency Management Division**

**1:30 p.m.**

Questions may be directed to Dana Wolverton, MSP/EMD at 517-333-5032 or E-Mail: [wolvertd@michigan.gov](mailto:wolvertd@michigan.gov)

### **Michigan Hazard Mitigation Coordinating Council**

**July 16, 2003**

**Emergency Management Division**

**1:30 p.m.**

Questions may be directed to Karen Totzke, MSP/EMD at 517-336-2622 or E-mail: [totzkek@michigan.gov](mailto:totzkek@michigan.gov)

### **2003 Summit**

**October 5-9, 2003**

**Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville, MI**

For more information visit the Michigan State Police website at [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov) or call 517-322-6515 for complete conference information and registration application.

**Visit the EMD website @ [www.MspEMD.org](http://www.MspEMD.org)**

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